

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02803 202100Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SAB-02 AID-05 /063 W  
-----210349Z 031760 /70

R 202033Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2803

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO PANCANAL OVERSIGHT HEARINGS

1. LOCAL MEDIA REACTION TO APRIL 11-14 VISIT AND  
OVERSIGHT HEARINGS BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PANAMA  
CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN MODERATE, AND NOT OVERLY  
CONTENTIOUS.

2. DURING HEARINGS THEMSELVES, LOCAL PRESS APRIL 13-14  
HIGHLIGHTED TESTIMONY BY CANAL ZONE PANAMANIAN-CITIZEN  
LABOR UNIONS AND CIVIC COUNCILS "REJECTING" THE 15-  
POINT ASSURANCE DOCUMENT, CITING THIS AS SUPPORT OF  
GOP'S OWN EARLIER "REJECTION".

3. IN A BYLINED INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN METCALFE APRIL  
14, "CRITICA" REPORTED THE CHAIRMAN WAS CALLING FOR US  
NEGOTIATING TEAM TO BETTER INFORM US-CITIZEN WORKERS:  
"IF THE NORTH AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS WOULD LISTEN MORE  
TO THESE INTERVENTIONS (I.E., REMARKS MADE AT HEARINGS)  
AND AT THE SAME TIME INFORM THE NORTH AMERICAN WORKERS,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02803 202100Z

THINGS WOULD GO BETTER", IT REPORTED CHAIRMAN METCALFE  
AS SAYING.

4. APRIL 14-15 PRESS GAVE FAIR PLAY TO SUB-  
COMMITTEE'S PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE.

"CRITICA", IN ABNORMALLY STRAIGHT REPORT, HIGHLIGHTED

COMMENTS ON DEFENSE-RELATED ISSUES. OTHER PAPERS  
FEATURED ESTIMATES OF GREAT PROSPECTS OR EMPLOYEE  
ISSUES.

5. COMMENT: COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT WAS MODERATE,  
IN VIEW OF ITS SUBJECT, AND WOULD PROBABLY HAVE  
BEEN EVEN LESS HAD IT NOT ENTAILED REVIEW AND  
REPEITION OF THE VIOLENT GP PRESS REJECTION OF  
THE 15 POINT ASSURANCE DOCUMENT ISSUED IN MARCH.  
ON THE WHOLE, COVERAGE WAS NOT ANTAGONISTIC,  
EITHER TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE OR TO THOSE WHOM IT  
HEARD. PUBLIC REACTION EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN PANAMA  
DIRECTLY TIED TO CANAL ZONE AFFAIRS APPEARS TO  
BE THAT THE HEARINGS WERE THE CANAL ZONE'S  
BUSINESS. END COMMENT.  
JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS, CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA02803  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770138-0258  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770438/aaaabgmp.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2214b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2748622  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL REACTION TO PANCANAL OVERSIGHT HEARINGS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, PQ, PANCANAL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2214b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009